

What change would be made in political economy by making a smaller county? The lines would be changed, and that was all; the protecting hand of the State would not extend further into a small county than in a large one. Was there any reason why wealth and prosperity should accrue to a smaller county than a large one? Howard county was not wealthy because it had been made into a small county; not so; it was made into a small county because it was wealthy. Why were not Caroline and Talbot and St. Mary's—all small counties—why were they not wealthy? Why was Baltimore county—the largest county in the State—the most wealthy in the State, and this, too, in proportion to its extent and population? The wealth and prosperity of a county, small or large, depended on the character of the people, the agricultural resources, and the facilities of transportation. His colleague, as the last argument, had said that he and the people of his section had been hewers of wood and drawers of water for the rest of the county long enough, and that they wanted this change. His colleague (Mr. Rider) was not yet in the prime of life, and had represented Somerset county in this hall more than any other man in the county of his age, and the district from which he came had furnished as many officeholders as any other district of the State, and in view of this it was hard to understand what his colleague meant by hewers of wood and drawers of water. Did his colleague, when he got his new county, want a life tenure of office?

Mr. P. then gave a statement of the relative black and white population of the counties of Somerset and Worcester, and said if the new county was formed it would leave in each of those counties less than 10,000 of white population, and a preponderance of black, and if negro suffrage was enforced, it would hand over the control of that section of the State to the tender mercies of negro-loving abolitionists, and he asked if this Convention was prepared to do this?

Mr. Rider said if there was any party to be interested it was those who lived within the proposed limits of the new county, and who were to be effected by the increased taxation. It had never been proposed to form a new county which did not meet with a storm of opposition